UPLB Writers' Club

quaranZine

a haiku collection zine
about life during covid-19 lockdown

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INTRODUCTION

On March 12, 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte declared a massive lockdown for the entire region of Metro Manila due to the novel coronavirus. This was to be adopted for 30 days but has since then been repeatedly extended and expanded in the supposed interest of national security, public safety, and public health. Now nearly 3 months later, the curve has still yet to be flattened, mass testing is nowhere in sight, vulnerable communities continue to suffer, mental health rates continue to rise, and we witness as the government ceases to prioritize the welfare of the Filipino people and on top of it all shamelessly commits violation after violation of our human rights.

A haiku presents us with an observation of everyday events and natural phenomena—a momentary glimpse at time's flow in the simplest words possible. But these are not normal times, and we do not all share the same experience. This collection thus serves as a time capsule of these troubling times: a reminder not only that we are never alone in our struggles but also that we have a pressing duty to speak up, to call out, to demand accountability, and to act for those who cannot

March 10, 2020:

"We have not reached that kind of contamination. Iisa-isa lang. With this transmission, you want to close down the economy at this time?"

March 12, 2020:

"It's a serious one. It is true, 'wag ninyong maliitin. Do not minimize it. But as I said, do not kill yourself with worry because as I said, the government is doing everything to make it at least controllable"

"Avoid trouble with the law,
avoid trouble with anybody. Just follow.
Better just stay home and study...
Kung ayaw niyong sundin,
you stick with your cellphone,
ang ga-graduate niyan yung
cellphone niyo, hindi ikaw"

S20E20

I really don't like
This Black Mirror episode
We are in right now.

TO FLATTEN OR NOT TO FLATTEN

"Your screen time was up.."
It increases every week.
So do other things.

AND OTHER LAST WORDS

one blink and it's gone,
thou shall not say "tomorrow" -
who says it will come?

GOODBYE QUARANTINE

Through a small smartphone
Familiar faces see her
All for the last time

NO INTERNET

nakatitig lang
sa dinosaur sa white screen
takbo't talon lang

WHAT CRISIS?

Sirens, screams, and bangs!
echoed the streets of 'Nila
bur'ying what matters

DORMER

Ilang buwan pa ba
ang kailangan hintayin
makauwi lang.

DEAR GAMIT SA DORM

babalik ako.
'wag mag-alala; ito'y
matatapos rin

FURY

The sound of the whisks
when she makes her Dalgona,
echoes so much more.

2GETHER

I wait on Fridays
same time just like you told me,
guess it's over now

ONLINE BASURAHAN

hanap kaaaway
pataasan ng ihi
bawal matalo

JOY

I am a woman
Not a plot device for men.
I lead my story.

8080

Deadlines piling up
Sweat in brow, phone chimes
Data's first to sleep

I'M FUCKING DEPRESSED THO

All a student needs
Is a working computer
and stable wifi

ONLINE CLASSROOM

Another absent
In the cyberspace classrooms
Only free data

BACK TO SCHOOL

Class is in session
Back to the classroom hallway
Grounds for infection

FREEDOM

Once he says, "No, I ..."
Smile wide. Meet his eyes. Thank him.
I've given myself.

BUBBLE

you will always be
my fragment of happiness
lighting these dark times

AYOKO NA

walang makitang
pag-asa; mga matang
sanay sa dilim

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO EXI(S)T?

lately, i'm thinking
life's too heavy a burden
for my weak body

QUARANTINE BLUES

Maybe it's just me,
maybe it's the quarantine:
voice no one knows who

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN

My arms are outstretched
the first time we meet again
Then I remember

IN QUARANTINE

at home, i am stuck
often sat here in silence
yet still, noise finds me

IN OUR HOUSE

same old tiring scene
I wish I was somewhere else
anywhere but here

April 1, 2020:

"I will not hesitate.
My orders are sa pulis pati military,
pati mga barangay na pagka ginulo
at nagkaroon ng okasyon na lumaban
at ang buhay ninyo ay nalagay
sa alanganin, shoot them dead...
Naintindihan ninyo?
Patay.
Eh kaysa mag-gulo kayo diyan,
eh 'di ilibing ko na kayo,"

THE CURVE

At back of it all
you shall find it, screaming
Lies: so loud and clear

MASS TESTING

Nasa'n ka na ba?
Gobyerno'y ayaw sa'yo
Malalagot eh

UNSUNG HEROES FROM PH

delayed and displaced,
but I can't wait to go home
my heart is still yours.

TEST RESULTS

long-awaited list
show not our names, but of
foreign citizens.

THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF ONLINE

He convinced to lynch
the wolf acting as shepherd.
They're now hunting him.

THE DISSENTER

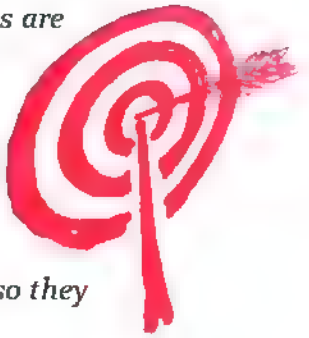
No guns and bullets
the voice that whispers the truth
for them is vicious

CRIMINALS

"what put you in jail?"
"I told the truth," said I. "You?"
"Oh, I went outside"

VAGUE

activists, critics
in the government's eyes are
pointed terrorists



CANNOT BE REACH

our call: oust the Pres.
they feared our voices, so they
replied: cease the press

BANG! COMPASSION

then lifeless, he lay:
a PTSD patient
at walang baril

SOS

Amidst the harsh heat
the kite persists with the wind
"Gutom na kami"

SITIO SAN ROQUE

Ikulong kami
sa seldang di nagkulang
Kusang susunod

DILI DILIHENSIYA

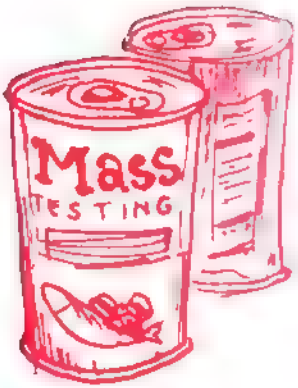
Kanin sa hapag,
resulta ng kalampag
Muling titindig

MONEY

Where is the money
For survival and for country
Where was the money

BIGAS HINDI BALA

bala ang bigay
sa sikmurang kumalam
hapag ay dugo

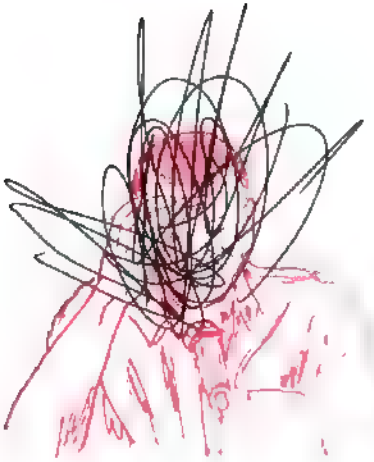


AYUDA

hindi mo ba alam?
pampawala ng gutom
libre ang bala

P275-B

Nananahimik
sa mga kamay ng langit
salat sa lupa



MARTIAL LAW BY TATAY DIGS

“parang martial law.”
“no! this is not martial law.”
“police, i might declare-“

LATE NIGHT SHOW

"The kit is the kit
Nobody but nobody"
nonsense si 'Tay D

NATION'S ADDRESS

alas-dose na
handa ang biogesic
bring on the headache

MIDNIGHT ANNOUNCEMENTS

arf arf arf arf arf
arf arf arf arf arf arf arf
arf arf arf arf arf

May 19, 2020:

"At sinabi ko sa inyo hindi kayo hindi ko kayo papatawarin 'pag nagkamali kayo dito. So the law is the law is the law. A rule is a rule is a rule and you—when you begin to mess up with the law, talagang ginagarantiya ko sa inyo na makukulong talaga kayo,"

few minutes later...

"Sabi mo, 'the law is the law.' Well, akin na iyon. It's my responsibility. But I will not order his transfer. He stays there until further orders,"

SAAN AABOT ANG REKLAMO MO?

sige, angal lang.
makitid man ang selda,
isisiksik ka.

MASS TESTING: A WRONG TERM?

Kaya't tumutol
Akala'y buong bansa!
Hirap makuha...

GOD'S FAVORITE

All these sad birthdays
Without booze and friends close by;
Except for Sinas

SA CLASSROOM MAY BATAS

Bawal lumabas
Pwede lang kung may kapit
Walang ganun mars

SPECIAL TREATMENT IN-CHECK

Dun sa Fontana
ginamot si Quiroga
at pinalaya

TRIBUTE

A man risked his life
And returned all on his own
Greeted with bullets

MAN OF THE LAW

Call yourself a man
Break the law, cry about it
Then ask compassion

"huwag ka sanang mamatay
hanggang January,
hintayin mo 'yung vaccine.
Kapag tinawag ka ng kamatayan
sabihin mo, putang ina ka umalis ka diyan
may hinihintay ako na vaccine.
Hindi ko pa panahon mamatay.
Iyan ang good news talaga"

BREATH

Breath tries to escape.
Caught by the mask and the screen.
Body felt breathless.

SWAB

The Hands keep clenching.
When Body removes the gloves...
Prick! Breathe... Wait in line.

ANTICIPATION

The Body fidgets.
When will its name be called out?
The Hands keep clenching.

FRONTLINERS

nothing hurts me more,
knowing I can die without
holding you again

CONFESSION

I hate that I have
to wait and wait and wait just
to say "I love you".

PICKING UP WHERE I LEFT OFF

Why can't I find it?
I just want to feel something
Other than panic

FULL SUN

sometimes, I can smile
all that's left: to hold on to
the next time I will

FUNERALS IN THE SKIES

I could have been there
grieving with you, by your side,
not here looking up.

The ***UPLB Writers' Club*** is a non-profit organization of young writers and literature enthusiast based in UPLB. Founded in the 1970s, the organization has since then marshalled its efforts to promote meaningful and socially-relevant literature inside and outside the university

@uplbwritersclub

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